CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (New) An inorganic pigment, the pigment comprising a compound which is an oxysulphide or oxyselenide of tin and a metal chosen from niobium or tantalum.

20. (New) A pigment according to claim 19 comprising a compound of the formula:

$Sn_xM_2O_{7-y}A_y$

wherein A is S or Se; wherein M is Nb or Ta; wherein $1.0 \leq x \leq 2.0$; and wherein $0 < y \leq 0.6$.

21. (New) A pigment according to claim 19, comprising a compound of the formula $Sn_xM_{z-z}M'_zO_{y-y}A_y$, where A, M, x and y are as defined in claim 19, M' is a dopant element and $0< z \leq 2.0$.

22. (New) A pigmented composition, the composition comprising a substrate matrix and a pigment, wherein the pigment comprises a compound which is an oxysulphide or oxyselenide of tin and a metal chosen from niobium or tantalum.

23. (New) A composition according to claim 22, wherein the substrate matrix comprises at least one glass component.

24. (New) A composition according to claim 23, wherein the at least one glass component is a low melting glass enamel frit.

25. (New) A composition according to claim 22, wherein the pigment comprises from 1 to 50 wt% of the composition.

26. (New) A composition according to claim 23, in the form of a glass frit, an enamel, a glass sheet or a glass article.

27. (New) A composition according to claim 22, wherein the substrate matrix comprises at least one plastic component.

28. (New) A composition according to claim 27, wherein the at least one plastic component is PVC.

29. (New) A composition according to claim 27, wherein the pigment comprises from 1 to 50 wt% of the composition.

30. (New) The use of a pigment according to claim 19, for coloring glasses or plastics.

31. (New) A method for the production of a pigment according to claim 19, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) intimately mixing SnO, SnA and M_2O_5 in an appropriate ratio to produce a reaction mixture; wherein A is S or Se; and wherein M is Nb or Ta,

(b) heating the reaction mixture to a temperature of between 800 and 1100°C, and

(c) cooling the product.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein the reaction mixture further comprises one or more mineralizers.

33. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein the reaction mixture is heated under vacuum.

34. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein the reaction mixture is heated in air.

35. (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of comminuting the product.

36. (New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of washing the cooled product with an acid.